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CYBER STOP

Today’s kids have to protect themselves from more than one kind of bullying. Ten years ago there was only one type of bully and that was in the school yard. Now the kids can get bullied 24 hours a day and 7 days a week just through the computer and through their mobile phones. **Cyber bullying** becomes a never ending living nightmare

There is a lot of interesting facts about **cyber bullying**. According to a recent poll in the USA, 43% of teens have been harassed online but only 10% have told a parent about their experiences. Parents are choosing not to do anything and let them fix it themselves. 13% of teens get threats through their email or through text, 15% have got private information posted online. A mother of three Tania Johnson (44) said that ‘’parents should take more care with what their kids are doing on the internet’’ Tania’s tips are ‘’that you should get involved with what your son/daughter is doing online and do not post anything that you don’t want other people to see and to stay private’’. There are many ways you can be bullied; you can be teased, made fun of, spread rumours about you and send unwanted messages.

Some ways to prevent **cyber bullying** include: guarding your personal information. Don’t post anything that you don’t want anyone to see. Keep private online. Do not give private details to anyone that you have never met before face to face. If you are getting bullied online you should tell the person to stop but if you do not know who is doing it you should immediately tell your parents and police and it will be tracked down. If it is a social network and he/she is your friend you should block them and then tell somebody about it. “STOP, BLOCK AND TELL”.

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South Australia has a law for **cyber bullies** and some of the consequences include: hacking into an account and send abusive things you can get up to 6 months in jail or $2,500 fine. If you blackmail someone online you can face up to 15 years imprisonment. SA calls **cyber bullying** an E-Crime (electronic crime). Racial offence through chat imprisonment for 3 years and a $5,000 fine or both.

Up to 3 years imprisonment if you menace, harass or cause offence. To make a threat to someone the maximum penalty is up to 7 years in prison.

**Cyber bullying** is growing fast and we need more kids to stay private online. There are a lot of people waiting to catch you, don’t let that person be you.

**Story by Isaac Johnson**